

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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STAFF 112212Z DIRECTOR 754674

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TO: IMMEDIATE 4

1. WASHINGTON POST FRONT PAGE ARTICLE 11 OCTOBER 1975 BILL RICHARDS BYLINE HEADLINED "CIA PLOTTED POISONING OF LUMUMBA" SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS (NOTE DIRECT QUOTES): "A FORMER TOP CIA SCIENTIST HAS TESTIFIED THAT THE AGENCY PREPARED AND SENT TO THE CONGO A DOSE OF LETHAL POISON INTENDED FOR USE IN AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST FORMER CONGOLESE PREMIER PATRICE LUMUMBA IN 1961." UNNAMED SOURCES SAID SIDNEY G O T T L I E B, RETIRED FORMER HEAD OF CIA TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, HAD TESTIFIED TO SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE THAT HE DESTROYED DRUG TESTING RECORDS IN 1972 AS ORDERED BY FORMER DIRECTOR RICHARD HELMS. HELMS HAD TESTIFIED EARLIER BEFORE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION THAT HE DID NOT GIVE OR RECALL HAVING GIVEN SUCH AN ORDER. GOTTLIEB, WHO TESTIFIED TWICE BEFORE CLOSED SESSION, TOOK FIFTH AMENDMENT EARLIER BUT FINALLY TESTIFIED ABOUT THE DRUG RECORDS DESTRUCTION WHEN GIVEN LIMITED OR "USE" IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION. GOTTLIEB ALSO FURTHER TESTIFYING BEFORE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH WHICH IS INVESTIGATING ARMY/CIA DRUG TESTING PROGRAMS. 4

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2. GOTTLIEB TESTIFIED POISON INTENDED FOR LUMUMBA CAME FROM AGENCY'S STOCKPILE "... AND WAS SENT TO A CIA AGENT IN THE CONGO NOW KNOWN AS ZAIRE FOR USE AGAINST LUMUMBA." POISON PLAN WAS NEVER USED AS LUMUMBA WAS KILLED BY UNKNOWN ASSASSINS IN KATANGA PROVINCE JUST FEW DAYS BEFORE INAUGURATION PRESIDENT KENNEDY JAN 1961. IN 1961 GOTTLIEB HEADED CHEMICAL DIVISION WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS HANDLED REQUESTS FOR POISON BY AGENTS IN FIELD. HE CONFIRMED A NUMBER OF CRITICAL DETAILS REGARDING EARLIER ALLEGATIONS THAT THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WAS INVOLVED IN TRYING TO POISON LUMUMBA. 4

3. GOTTLIEB WAS ONE OF CIA OFFICIALS WHO REJECTED STOCKPILING TOXINS IN PRIVATE WAREHOUSE IN BALTIMORE IN DEFIANCE OF PRESIDENTIAL ORDERS. MOST OF POISON EVENTUALLY DESTROYED ALTHOUGH ABOUT 116 GRAMS SHELL FISH TOXIN AND COBRA VENOM RETAINED BY ARMY OFFICERS AND RETURNED TO CIA CHEMICAL DIVISION IN 1970. ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION SOURCES SAID THAT ITS EFFORTS TO VERIFY FACTS MADE DIFFICULT BECAUSE GOTTLIEB WAS TRAVELING ABROAD AND UNAVAILABLE FOR TESTIMONY AND BECAUSE AGENCY RECORDS ON DRUGS HAD BEEN DESTROYED. 4

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4. GOTTLIEB SCHEDULED TO TESTIFY FURTHER ON DRUG EXPERIMENTATION. Y

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